

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BAR - BENCH - PRESS CONFERENCE

The first meeting of the reactivated Bar-Bench-Press Conference was held on Thursday, May 24, 1990, at 3:00 p.m. in the Buck Library at the Buena Vista Conference Center. The meeting was opened to the public. Notice of the meeting had been published in the Delaware State News and in the News Journal. Notice and a copy of a May 4, 1990 letter from Chief Justice Christie to the Conference membership was posted at Buena Vista and provided to the Supreme Court Media Distribution List. Twelve members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

Designating Authorities and members in attendance were:

Designating Authorities

Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie
Mr. Sal DeVivo
Rodman Ward, Jr., Esquire

Members for the Print News Media

Mr. Henry Freeman
Ms. Judith Roales
Mr. John Taylor

Members from the Electronic News Media

Mr. Allan R. Loudell
Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Michael Sigman

Members from the Bench

Justice Randy J. Holland
Judge Henry duPont Ridgely
Judge Jay Paul James

Members from the Bar

Mary Pat Trostle, Esquire
Howard M. Handelman, Esquire
Roderick R. McKelvie, Esquire

In the absence of an elected chairman, Chief Justice Christie opened the meeting and gave a brief history of the Conference. The Chief Justice suggested topics that the Conference might wish to discuss at this and future meetings.

After the members of the Conference introduced themselves, Mr. DeVivo, on behalf of the media, expressed his hope that the Conference would create a dialogue among the represented groups, and discussions on first and fourth amendment issues would promote better understanding of the viewpoint of each group. On behalf of the State Bar Association, Mr. Ward expressed his hope that the Conference could resolve disagreements through self discipline; however, he felt that the members should agree to disagree when appropriate and recognize that differing viewpoints should not deter discussions.

At the suggestion of the Chief Justice, the Conference divided into separate caucuses of the Bar-Bench and the Media to discuss the election of a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. As the result of the caucuses, Mr. Handelman was nominated to be the Chairman and Mr. John Taylor was nominated to be the Vice Chairman. Both nominations were seconded. Their elections were unanimous. Ms. Trostle was nominated to be secretary. The nomination was seconded, and her election was unanimous. Mr. Stephen D. Taylor, Supreme Court Administrator, was appointed as Assistant Secretary.

The first issue raised by the Conference was the desirability of expanding the membership. After discussions, by the Conference as a whole and by the individual caucuses, which focused on the

need to include representatives from the Court of Chancery, the Court of Common Pleas, the Department of Justice, the Office of the Public Defender, the wire services, weekly newspapers and other television stations, a motion was made and seconded to expand the membership. The motion passed unanimously.

After expansion was approved, the Conference discussed whether each group within the Conference should be expanded by one or two members. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to expand the membership by 2 members per each group within the Conference.

It was suggested that each group propose candidates at the next meeting to fill the new membership positions. The Conference decided that each group would appoint new members prior to the next meeting, and the new members would attend the next meeting. A. proposal that the new members serve one year terms was approved by the Conference. It was noted that the current media representatives did not have designated terms as required by the Constitution. The media representatives were asked to confer among themselves prior to the next meeting and designate their terms for inclusion in the Conference's records.

Mr. McKelvie said that the Bar-Bench group would submit copies of the rules that govern the judicial conduct and the professional conduct of judges and lawyers respectively to the Conference for their information. He requested that the media group provide the the Conference with copies of any guidelines that govern their conduct.

A motion was made and seconded to change the name of the Conference to the Bar-Bench-Media Conference. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Conference was scheduled for Thursday, July 5, 1990 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of The News Journal. This will be a luncheon meeting sponsored by The News Journal. Any member wishing to submit agenda items for the next meeting should submit the items to Mr. Handelman by June 22, 1990. Mr. Handelman will prepare an agenda for the meeting and circulate it to the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pat Trostle
by Stephen D. Taylor

June 4, 1990